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Assistant Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 09/689,732

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 12 and 20 to 25 remain in the application.

During a telephone interview in September 2001, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 5 to 12 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the Examiner's suggestion presented at page 2 of the aforementioned Office Action.

Claims 5 to 12 and 20 to 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 was rejected because the phrase "an intermediate member movably mounted to said sliding member" was not understood by the Examiner. Claim 5, which has been introduced into claim 1, now reads "said intermediate member being movable relative to said sliding member". It is now believed clear that the intermediate member is mounted to the sliding member and movable with respect thereto. The specific structure that allows the intermediate member to move relative to the sliding member is not positively recited, since it is obvious for a man skilled in the art that a wide range of mounting structures could be used to permit relative movement between the intermediate member and the sliding member.

The text of claim 5 has been further amended to set forth that the circuit card is mounted to the intermediate member for conjoint movement therewith in response to the activation of the actuator.

Claim 6 has been amended to set forth that the intermediate member is movable relative to the sliding member in a plane parallel to the mounting surface of the sliding member.

Claim 20 has been amended to set forth that the mounting member is mounted to the sliding member while remaining movable relative thereto.



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Claim 20 has been further amended to set forth that the actuator is mounted to the sliding member and causes conjoint movement of the mounting member and the circuit card relative to the sliding member.

Claim 20 was further objected to because the phrase "by operation of said actuator" was not understood by the Examiner. The phrase "by operation of said actuator" has been cancelled from claim 20.

Claim 21 has been amended to set forth that the mounting member is movable relative to the sliding member in a plane parallel to the mounting surface of the sliding member.

In view of the foregoing, claims 5 to 12 and 20 to 25 are believed to comply with the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1 to 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Hillis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,317,481). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's present invention is advantageous over Hellis et al.'s system in that it is of more universal use. Indeed, Hellis et al.'s system can only be used with a specific type of circuit board 238. A conventional circuit board cannot be used with Hellis et al.'s system in that the lever 264 and the rail 250 are directly mounted to the circuit board 238. The first embodiment disclosed by Hellis et al. can also only be used with a specific type of circuit card 68, which is specifically adapted to receive the transfer members 70 and 80. Hellis et al. fails to teach or suggest a support structure including a sliding member and an intermediate member mounted to the sliding member, the intermediate member being movable relative to the sliding member and adapted to support a circuit card. The use of the intermediate member obviates the need for altering the circuit card, thereby rendering the system universal.

For the reasons set forth above, amended independent claim 1 is believed clearly patentable over Hellis et al.

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Claims 20 to 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Lund et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,377).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lund et al. fail to teach mounting an actuator to a sliding member for displacing a mounting member holding a circuit card. It is respectfully submitted that Lund et al.'s mounting members 16 are not movable relative to the card holder 15. Furthermore, Lund et al.'s actuator 44 is not mounted to the card holder 15, as now recited in independent claim 20. Lund et al. clearly lack any structure that could permit relative movement between the mounting member 16 and the card holder 15. In light of the above comments, it is now believed clear that claim 20 defines patentable subject matter over Lund et al.

As set forth above, it is submitted that none of the references relied upon by the Examiner discloses or suggests the presently-claimed invention. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is courteously invited to contact the undersigned.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".


Respectfully submitted,

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By:

January 18, 2002

Date


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Encl. - Version with Markings

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 5 and 13 to 19 have been deleted.

Claims 1, 6, 12, 20 and 21 have been amended as follows:

1. (twice amended) A system for removably connecting a circuit card to a connector of an electronic device, comprising a support structure for loading ~~a~~said circuit card into ~~an~~said electronic device, said circuit card being supported by said support structure and displaceable relative thereto, said support structure being adapted to be slidably inserted along a first axis within the electronic device to a first position, and an actuator mounted to said support structure for selectively displacing the circuit card relative to the support structure along a second axis from said first position to a connection position of the circuit card where a connection portion of the circuit card is operatively coupled to the connector of the electronic device, and from said connection position to a disconnection position wherein the connection portion of the circuit card is disengaged from the ~~associated~~ connector of ~~the~~said electronic device, wherein said support structure includes a sliding member and an intermediate member mounted to said sliding member, said intermediate member being movable relative to said sliding member, the circuit card being mounted to said intermediate member for conjoint movement therewith in response to the activation of said actuator.

6. (amended) A system as defined in claim 5~~1~~, wherein said intermediate member is mounted to a mounting surface of said sliding member, ~~for parallel movements with respect thereto~~and wherein said intermediate member is movable relative to said sliding member in a plane parallel to said mounting surface.

12. (amended) A system as defined in claim 5~~1~~, wherein said sliding and intermediate members are made in the form of plates.

20. (amended) A support structure for connecting a circuit card to an electronic device, comprising a sliding member adapted to be slidably inserted within ~~an~~the electronic device, a mounting member ~~movably~~ mounted to said sliding member, said mounting member being movable relative to said sliding member, said mounting member

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being adapted to support the circuit card, and an actuator ~~effective for~~ mounted to said sliding member and causing conjoint movement of said mounting member and the circuit card relative to said sliding member, whereby said sliding member ~~can be~~ is slidably displaced along an insertion path to direct the support structure to a first position from which the circuit card is displaced, ~~by operation of said actuator,~~ to a connection position where the circuit card is operatively coupled to the electronic device.

21. (amended). A support structure as defined in claim 20, wherein said mounting member is mounted to a mounting surface of said sliding member ~~for parallel movements with respect thereto,~~ said mounting member being movable relative to said sliding member in a plane parallel to said mounting surface.

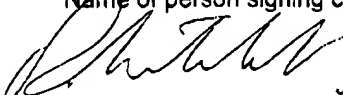


Assistant Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 09/689,732**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the
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